

St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

March 2007

From the Rector

When I was in college I participated in an outreach ministry that gave the gift of home repair to elderly folks who desperately needed it. It was work offered and given in April, so they came up with the catchy title Christmas in April. As I write this near the end of February, it occurs to me we have received Christmas in February. We as a parish have responded generously to fund our mission and ministry for St Alban's in 2007. Thanks be to God! And thanks to all who have responded with generosity and faith. The Vestry has passed a balanced budget. The budget passed is not perfect. The Vestry and I would certainly like to have more funds available. But the budget is enough for us to go forward together. The 2007 budget has spending reductions in some of areas of our mission and ministry. Even though we did so well in our pledges this was necessary in order to eliminate a structural deficit that has been in the budget for a number of years. We can now go forward into the future in a healthy way financially.

Every parishioner should know how hard your Vestry has worked on this over the last six months. We are blessed with wonderful, faithful leaders. We are now ready to build for the future. One part of that is the calling of the Reverend Harriette Sturges as the new Coordinator of Children's Ministries. Harriette will come to us in July from the Diocese of North Carolina where she has served for many years in Children's ministries. As Coordinator of Children's Ministries she will provide oversight and direction for all our ministries to and with children from their birth to their entering the Rite 13 ministry. One other bit of news: Harriette is a deacon, what used to be referred to as a permanent deacon. In the Diocese of Washington, we now only have the transitional diaconate, clergy serving six months to a year as deacons before being ordained priests. This may change as Bishop Chane is considering establishing the diaconate as a full order of ministry to this diocese. So, one of the things Harriette will offer St Alban's and the Diocese is a greater appreciation and understanding of the diaconate in the Church.

I am also pleased to report that Timothy Boggs will join our parish staff this summer as a transitional deacon (one who will become a priest the following year). St Alban's sponsored Tim for ordination. He comes to us with many gifts and abilities having worked in the private sector for many years. Tim will coordinate and oversee new Vestry initiatives in stewardship development and the deepening of our outreach ministries. We are thrilled to have Tim join our staff.

I will soon select another staff person to coordinate our growing youth ministries and to begin a concerted outreach to young adults in 20s and 30s. When this person is on board we will have the ministry team we need to build upon the strong tradition of ministry at St. Alban's Parish.

These are exciting times in our parish life. I sense a lot of energy from all of you. You are ready to move out in mission and ministry together; to build upon such a great tradition of Gospel work and proclamation at St Alban's. Amen to that. Let's get going.

Yours in Christ,

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 11TH.

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10TH.



We welcome the
faithful, the seeker,
and the doubter,
for God's embrace is
wide and God's
Good News is for all.

**WORSHIP AND PRAYER
SCHEDULE AT ST. ALBAN'S**

SUNDAY

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:15 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II

9:15 am Teen Service with
Holy Eucharist, Rite II

11:15 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

MONDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

TUESDAY

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

Noon Noonday Prayer*

WEDNESDAY

Noon Healing Eucharist

THURSDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

FRIDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

* If it is a Major or Lesser Feast Day,
we will Celebrate Holy Eucharist.

CLERGY

The Rev. Scott A. Benhase, Rector
The Rev. Margot D. Critchfield, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate
The Rev. Lukas Katenda, Deacon

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

Carolyn Seaton

DIRECTORS

Ron Hicks, Director of Facilities
Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music
Wilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
Sonya Subbayya Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries
Jane Volkema, Director of Parish Administration

OFFICE STAFF

Shirley Dickey, Receptionist
David Johnson, Volunteer
Marcia Welch, Communications Assistant

VESTRY OFFICERS

Gordon Avery, Senior Warden; Kate Bouvé, Junior Warden;
Sylvia Mahaffey, Secretary; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

VESTRY MEMBERS

Paul Brewster; Bob Dunn; Diana Dykstra; Marc
Fetterman, Cay Hartley, Kammie Hedges, Sam Lewis,
Susan Morris, Jon Sawyer, Mark Shima, Bob Witten,
Bob Woolfolk; Allan Thorson, Youth Representative;
Mary Jane Shackelford, WSA Board Representative

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3001 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016
Tel.: 202-363-8286 Fax: 202-363-6828
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Web site: www.AlbansDC.org

Sunday Parish Forums

Satterlee Hall at 10:30 am

MARCH 4: THE REV. LOREN MEAD, "THE 'LEFT-BEHIND' MOVEMENT," PART 2

What in the world is *The Rapture*? What is *The Millennium*? And what's the difference between "pre-millennialism" and "post-millennialism?" What's *Armageddon*? And the *Apocalypse*? And what – if anything – does it matter? Loren Mead will explore how this immensely popular religious set of ideas affects us in this second presentation and discussion of the topic.

LENTEN SERIES: SAINTS IN LENT

MARCH 11: RICH AND JO TURNER, "THE WESLEY BROTHERS AND THE ANGLICAN TRADITION"

The Wesley brothers, John and Charles, voiced a radical social conscience and a deep, emotional spirituality that redefined Anglicanism and created the Methodist Episcopal tradition. Much of their theology was expressed in hymnody that still thrives in mainstream protestant church hymnals. This forum will examine their basic beliefs and celebrate their contribution to Anglicanism through reading and singing their hymns. Rich and Jo Turner have been active participants in the music at St. Alban's for nearly 20 years. Rich has a long heritage of Methodist clergy in his family and served as choir director at several Methodist churches; Jo has been singing in church choirs since she was eight years old. Rich and Jo met singing in a local chorale.

MARCH 18: TERRI SIMPSON, "STORIES OF PILGRIMAGE: THE CELTIC SAINTS OF LENT"

The Celtic church had a strong affinity for the spirituality expressed by early Christian pilgrims who ventured to the desert in order to grow in their relationship with God. As we continue our own journeys this Lenten season, come hear stories from the lives of three Celtic saints—Cuthbert, David and Patrick—and learn what the desert wisdom of Christians from the past has to say to us in the 21st century. Terri Simpson is the program manager for the Cathedral Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage at Washington National Cathedral. She is a certified teacher of Centering Prayer and has had over twenty years experience designing and implementing Christian education and spiritual formation programs for both adults and children.

MARCH 25: ROGER FERLO, "GEORGE HERBERT'S RELIGIOUS IMAGINATION"

"I struck the board and cried, no more"--so reads the first line of one of the most powerful religious poems in the Anglican tradition. Herbert's poetry has shaped the religious sensibilities of spiritual thinkers as diverse as T.S. Eliot and Simone Weil, and provides the texts for some of the most beloved hymns in the Episcopal hymnal. Come to this Lenten forum and discover how this eloquent 17th century voice can speak directly to our 21st century struggles with faith and believing. Roger Ferlo is an Episcopal priest and the Director of the Center for Lifetime Theological Education at Virginia Theological Seminary. His new book, *Heaven*, an anthology of new writing by 24 American poets, artists, pastors and theologians, will be published this spring by Seabury Press.

Music at St. Alban's — Change and Stability Ahead

SONYA SUBBAYYA SUTTON
DIRECTOR FOR PARISH MUSIC MINISTRIES

With Norman Scribner's retirement as Director of Music on Pentecost Sunday (May 27) I will assume responsibility for the entire music program at St. Alban's. I appreciate that many of you have greeted that news with sincere congratulations and joy. I have served St. Alban's for 11 years as Director for Parish Music Ministries and so most of you know me already, and realize that I represent stability far more than change. Some have also expressed concerns and following are the questions I have been asked in the past few weeks:

What will change? Change can be difficult and uncomfortable, and the simple fact is that Norman's retirement represents a huge change, after 47 years of service to this parish. But let's focus on what won't change, and be open to the opportunities that change can present. There will continue to be ways for all to participate in music at St. Alban's, as listener, singer, and worshipper. Music that serves our liturgy and that reflects the hopes and expectations of this varied congregation will go on as always at 9:15 and 11:15 and there will continue to be professional vocal leadership in the choirs.

How will you do everything? For the past 11 years I have worked hard to be part of the staff, to work with the rector to understand his/her vision for the parish, to build the four choirs I have had responsibility for, and to continue to learn from the colleagues and resources available to me in the wider church. This is my full time job, and my work as a church musician is my main focus. Though I will now take on another choir, and will play for two services on Sunday during the program year (in previous years I did that only during the summer months) there is in fact a lot of overlap between what I already do and these new responsibilities. Of course I'll be working harder, but that doesn't seem very scary because I enjoy my work so much. There are plenty of models from other churches similar to St. Alban's that have only one full-time musician on staff. If anything, singers and other musicians in this parish will find that they are ones working harder!

Will you still direct the children's choirs and handbells? I was especially touched when a few people asked me these questions, with evident concern, as if these choirs would now be "beneath" me. These are both areas of musicianship that I don't claim to have any particular expertise in, but I can't think of anything more important than teaching children to participate fully in our worship, and honestly the bells are just plain fun.

Is the music at 11:15 going to change? No.

Perhaps I'll talk the rector into letting us sing the psalms. Perhaps I'll do a bit more Anglican chant. Perhaps I favor Howells over Mendelssohn. But the essential answer is that there will not be a noticeable change in the musical style of the 11:15 service.

What if your husband gets called to another

position? This concern first came to light last spring when my husband Eugene was nominated for Bishop of California. (He lost that election, and thankfully we weren't faced with a bi-coastal marriage while our son finished high school here.) We are committed to Washington for many reasons (aging parents among them) and have no desire to move. Eugene realizes as well that music positions are much more difficult to find than those for clergy, and he is very supportive of my work here. And needless to say, he has plenty to keep him engaged as Canon Pastor at Washington National Cathedral.

By necessity there will be some change and there are those who would like me lay out specific plans for music at St. Alban's, but I can't do that quite yet. Please know that I am looking for ideas in many places, and have formed an advisory group of parishioners, which includes representatives from the different choirs. Together with that group, our rector, and colleagues nationally, I will discuss the best ways to use our many resources, while staying within the budget that the vestry approved in February. I want to use those musical resources in the best possible ways to serve this parish, to support the liturgy, and to create musical moments that bring each of us closer to God as we walk this path together. Norman has laid a beautiful, strong foundation for good music at St. Alban's. I am very grateful for that, and I am honored to have the opportunity to continue that tradition.

Further questions or concerns?

202-363-8286, ext. 205 or SonyaS@st-albans-parish.org

January 2007 Financial Report

The Total Income amount,
includes all 2007 pledges paid in advance in 2006

Total Income	\$ 202,815.58
Personnel	77,25.32
Outreach	13,406.38
Parish Programs	6,152.26
Building & Grounds	26,815.27
Office Expenses	2,507.81
Total Expenses	\$ 125,907.04
Difference	
Income/Expenses	\$ 76,908.54

“In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.”

PSALM 71:1

BARBARA CONYERS

Wilbert took me to the Lutheran Church of the Reformation Saturday, January 17th. Otherwise, I would have had a pretty long trek from Union Station to 212 East Capital Street where an interfaith service was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. I had planned to take Metro. Drawing closer to the church I saw people with banners and protest signs. So I knew that we were going in the right direction. When I saw a large Episcopal Peace banner and a gathering out on the front steps, I knew that we were at the church. I ran up the steps toward the people that had the “Peace is the Church’s Business” banner. I met Nick Chavasse, a staff member from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship in Chicago. He had sent e-mails to me Helma Lanyi, and others about the United for Peace March.

The night before I had sat at our EPF/WIN table at the Diocesan Convention and wondered if I would be up for a long day of protest activities. On Saturday morning when I awoke I wrote in my journal: “This is the day that you have made, Lord. I will rejoice and be glad in it. I will participate in the Peace March. I will go to the Lutheran Church of the Reformation on East Capital Street for the prayer service before the protest. Be present to us, Jesus, in this service. Let us feel you! Amen!”

“Preparing Ourselves for Peace Work” was the title of the interfaith service. It began with the processional: *Siyahamba (We are marching in the light of God.)* Then we heard from leaders from various faith traditions. All were stirring and inspiring. During the passing of the peace segment, we were asked to turn to someone we did not know and answer the following question: What experience or image or text has made you believe that a world of love and generosity is possible? I talked with Virgine, a woman from Wisconsin. She said that she was a Christian and Christian faith encompasses this kind of world. I told her that the words “I am the resurrection and the life” popped in to my mind and that I believed that it is Jesus’ resurrection power that makes this kind of world possible. We were grateful that we had had the opportunity to share and discover that we were in synch with one another.

I was also grateful for the warm hospitality the church had given to us. We were a network of various protestant branches, Catholics, Jews, Buddhists and Muslims, and we were reminded of the power that we had to turn things around. Just before the benediction we were told where we could find rest rooms. As I waited in a line that was fairly long, the sexton came through and announced that there

were additional rest rooms. A group of us gave thanks and praise as he opened up additional facilities. We left the church at 10:30.

The march from the church to the rally was an energizing one. Thoughts of whether I could participate in the afternoon activities and worries about the nearest Metro stop began to fade. A man who had had an 18-hour train ride from Florida asked me what building we were in front of. I told him that it was the Supreme Court. It was his first trip to DC. He came alone. He said, “I just felt that God wanted me to be here.”

Then there was Elaine, an ordained Episcopal priest and her two companions. They had driven from Cleveland. Elaine asked me if being a Conyers in DC gave me connections. Later when Representative John Conyers spoke she asked if he were a relative. I said yes. He is my brother and yours, too. I met others as we walked. When a lady in the group heard that I was from St. Alban’s she revealed that she had attended our parish upon her return from Germany. She had met Carlyle briefly and wanted to know how to be in touch with her. She wanted retreat and centering prayer information. I took her name. There was also a friend from St. Stephen and the Incarnation whom I had not seen for quite a while. She along with many of us were delighted to follow the big Episcopal Peace banner because we did not have individual signs and banners.

When we reached the National Mall we joined the other throng of marchers and listened to members of Congress, entertainers and social activists. Drums were beating as the Statue of Liberty, the devil, and other symbols on stilts swayed rhythmically. A banana and some crackers and cheese held me together. But I think that it was the love that I felt from people all around me that really sustained me.

A lady from a Christian radio station was circulating through the crowd with microphone in hand. She asked me and others nearby if we would be willing to tell what it was about our faith that brought us there. This was the second time this day that I had had an opportunity to talk about my faith. And it was the second time that I would feel a little nervous and anxious. We were asked to state our name and faith tradition. I told her that I was thinking and suggested that she start with my friend from St. Stephen’s and the lady next to her who was Methodist and from Arlington. They both seemed so articulate in their response. In the meantime I started to pray, asking, “Lord, what do you want me to say?” When my turn came I gave my name and said that I was Episcopalian. And then, in what I felt was rambling fashion, I told her that Jesus had been so helpful to me in the many challenges that I have had and I knew that he wanted me to be there. I must have said something else because the Methodist lady complimented me.

Upon completion of all the passionate speeches, about 1:45 p.m., the march toward the Capitol began. We slowly passed by the monument of shoes that belong to the slain

from Iraq. I felt very good about my participation and decided to make an exit when I saw the Union station. I waved to Elaine and other familiar faces. Elaine yelled, "See you March 16th." That's the date for the Episcopal Peace Witness for peace in Iraq which will be held at the National Cathedral. I waved back affirmatively.

"Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you."

PSALM 71:6

Christian Peace Witness in Iraq

HELMA LAYNI

Episcopalians from all over the country will gather Saturday, March 17, 2007, at St. Albans in Trenbath starting at 10:30 for brunch, fellowship, and a program related to the events of the weekend. They are taking part in the "Christian Peace Witness for Iraq" campaign which will feature an ecumenical prayer service on March 16, at 7 p.m., at the National Cathedral, followed by a procession to Lafayette Square and candlelight vigil in front of the White House. More than 28 Protestant, Evangelical, and Catholic peace groups have signed on to come to Washington for this event and make a specifically Christian voice heard in support of "Ending the U.S. Occupation of Iraq, Supporting Our Troops, Rebuilding Iraq, No to Torture and Yes to Justice." Thousands are expected to come to DC for this event. It may be necessary to register attendance at the Cathedral on-line, see www.christianpeacewitness.org. and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's national website: www.epfnational.org. We invite each of you to get to know committed fellow Episcopalians on March 17 here at St. Albans and add your voice to that of so many other Christians nationwide. If you can provide a bed for two nights for one of these "witnesses" please let us know.

Helma Lanyi 202-364-0546; or olivebranch@rcn.com.
Andy Ramsey-Moor 410-750-7074; arm2k@earthlink.net.

Nourse Hall News

KATE BOUVÉ, JUNIOR WARDEN

Have you looked through the window in the narthex to check out Nourse Hall? If you do, you'll catch a tantalizing glimpse of the total renovation that's well underway. The Building Committee is very pleased with the work of Whiting-Turner and the project is on schedule and within budget. We hope to be in the New Nourse Hall by Easter. (The uncertainty about the date is because we need to seek an occupancy permit from the DC Government before we can use the new space.)

The Building and Finance Committees have been working closely on the financial aspects of the project. As you may

recall from the financing decision process last summer, the cost to complete the Nourse Hall renovation was \$3.16 million. To pay these costs, the funds available in the Capital Campaign Fund would be exhausted with the exception of money set aside for the Transformation Grants. To supplement the Capital Campaign funds, the Vestry approved the decision to internally borrow \$400,000 from St. Alban's Endowment Fund. We expect to reach this point in March and the Finance Committee has begun the careful process of liquidating Endowment Fund holdings to make cash available to pay the renovation bills. It's important for those who have pledged to the Capital Campaign to fulfill their pledges as soon as practical to minimize the withdrawals from the Endowment Fund.

The Building and Finance Committees and the Vestry are very grateful to the parishioners who generously pledged to the Capital Campaign. Many have fulfilled their pledges and others are making steady progress toward fulfillment. Although we're close to completion of the Nourse Hall Renovation, it's not too late to pledge or to increase your gift to the Capital Campaign. The new Nourse Hall will be a beautiful, welcoming place for long time parishioners and new comers as well. We can all be proud of – and a part of - this extraordinary effort.

Thursday Evening Lenten Program

THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER:

Come sample a few of the myriad ways in which we pray. Light supper provided with sung Compline to close the evening. Thursday evenings from 6:45 - 8:45 p.m., followed by Sung Compline. Sign up in the Narthex.

March 1: *Practices of Prayer – An Overview*
The Rev. Canon Eugene Sutton

March 8: *The Sacrament of Reconciliation*
The Rev. Margot D Critchfield

March 15: *Centering Prayer*
The Rev. Carlyle Gill

March 22: *On Beads of Prayer*
The Rev. Douglas Greenaway

March 29: *Lectio Divina*
Diana Smith

Essentials: Lenten meditations on necessity and abundance

Produced by Episcopal Relief and Development, this booklet includes readings and reflections for Lent. Pick up a copy in the Narthex.

Sunday Parish Forum Reviews

JANUARY 14 - HOPE FOR RECOVERY

A new ministry at St. Alban's, "Hope for Recovery," which offers personal, moral and religious support in strict confidence to those who are struggling with addiction, as well as to concerned family members and friends, was the focus of this forum. It was offered as part of Recovery Sunday. Sally Craig, Linda Bickford, Ann Nix, and John Nickum, who are integral to this ministry, have been specially trained to discuss problems related to addiction with individuals seeking help and those close to them, and to point them toward appropriate intervention and long term resources. The group also offers programs of education and outreach. Its members were introduced by Margot Critchfield and John Pontius, co-chairs of the Diocesan Task Force on Alcohol and Substance Abuse.

Linda Bickford presented the results of a survey on addiction conducted at St. Alban's on two Sundays in August, 2006. The 93 responses from parishioners showed that addiction is a very significant problem among us: 60% reported a family member or friend affected by addiction, and 11% said they were themselves in recovery. Those who responded were inclined to keep this problem hidden. Of them, 74% said they were uncomfortable about discussing these matters, and 59% said they were not confident in helping youth to avoid addiction. Asked how important it is for St. Alban's to take action, 91% said they felt it was important, 92% supported teaching about these issues, 84% thought we should sponsor activities for youths, and 93% were glad we provide space and support for several 12-Step Programs.

Sally Craig then discussed how 12-Step Programs work, and explained that the Hope for Recovery Group had prepared for its mission by taking a two-day training exercise at the Johnson Institute/Rush Center, where they

learned an orderly, 5-step way of talking to someone who has a problem. Sally displayed and commented on multiple materials that are available for interested parishioners, including a brochure of the Hope for Recovery Program at St. Alban's.

The remainder of the forum was devoted to questions and answers. Questions included: how to deal with denial? How to get started? What is a problem? Are gambling, sex, internet and food addiction included? What about teens being raised by alcoholics? Discussion continued well after the usual time of ending.

—**GORDON B AVERY**

JANUARY 21 – ROGER WILKINS REMEMBERS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

I believe that the January 21, 2007 Forum was one of the most memorable forums in St. Alban's history. At the invitation of parishioner John Buchanan, Roger Wilkins, Professor of History at George Mason University (who was not able to come the week before), spoke about his memories of the civil rights movement and MLK, Jr.'s important role during the dark days of 1964 to 1968. Some 40 years after, the memories are still vivid in his mind. The room was hushed and silent; people were hanging on each word.

Dr. Wilkins met Martin in 1959 through his uncle, Roy Wilkins, then head of the NAACP. Martin was 30 and Roger 27. They later worked together when Dr. Wilkins served as head of the US Community Services Department, the forerunner to the civil rights division of the Justice Department the Johnson Administration. They knew each other well and Dr. Wilkins was therefore able to recount history to us first hand.

Although it is popular today to say that you loved Martin and worked with him during that time, that is often far from the truth. MLK Jr. was reviled and hated by many people, even some in the civil rights movement. He was no dreamer, despite the popularity of one excerpt from what

has become known as the "I Have a Dream Speech;" the whole thrust of that speech was to act, not just to dream. He truly believed that the principles of Gandhi would work in the civil rights movement. Dr. King had great political and leadership skills. He was able to bring together the black southern Christian leadership for the common cause of freedom and justice.

He also had great courage. He was always fearful of losing his life, but willing to keep going because he believed in his cause. He gave up a sure good life as pastor of one of the largest black Baptist churches in the south to pursue the cause of civil rights in the US. He lived in the ghetto in Chicago (not a "gilded" ghetto mansion) and, the last time that Dr. Wilkins saw him, when he was sent to him on a mission from President Johnson, Dr. King was holding a meeting with gang leaders in the middle of the night to persuade them to use non-violent means. At the end, he went to Memphis, even though he felt that it was a lost cause, because he had promised the people that he would be there. He kept that promise and died. Martin was 39.

Dr. Wilkins made it clear that Martin was a man, with the faults of a man. But this should not detract from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s great contribution to the civil right struggle and the drive for freedom for all.

—**BOB WOOLFOLK**

FEBRUARY 4 - EPISCOPAL-ANGLICAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – A VIEW FROM THE STUDENTS

St. Alban's parishioner and American University Episcopal Chaplain, Carolyn Seaton, and four A.U. students gave a panel presentation on the Episcopal-Anglican Campus Ministry (ECM) at the American University. ECM is a ministry of St. Alban's Parish encouraged by the Diocese, and Carolyn has received a Transformation Grant from St. Alban's for her work with the students at A.U. In the Diocese of Washington, only Howard University and the University of

Maryland have Episcopal ministries fully funded by the Diocese. Bishop Chane is fostering more outreach by parishes to the many colleges and universities in the region.

The four students on the panel were enthusiastic about and committed to their participation in ECM, which focuses on providing interested students with opportunities for worship, learning/exploration of faith, service, and community and fellowship. Several of the students were active Episcopalians before college and found ECM to be like a home away from home where they could continue many of the “church” activities they had enjoyed before coming to college. ECM offers a regular weekly Evening Prayer service on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. followed by fellowship, food and bible study or a speaker at 7:00. Once a month a clergy person (often one of St. Alban’s clergy) celebrates Eucharist with the students. The students also come to St. Alban’s services on Sundays and are regulars at the service that St. Alban’s leads at the Washington Home. That ministry at the Washington Home has become especially meaningful for the ECM students as they share their music and friendship with the residents. They spoke of being really touched by the relationships they have developed as they have gotten to know folks there.

How can St. Alban’s parishioners support this lively ministry? By worshipping with the students, sharing a ministry of your own with them as a speaker or by offering service opportunities, or by providing a ride to church on Sunday. And... these are college students—they love food! Carolyn said she has made sure that there is always food at ECM gatherings, and would welcome comestible contributions from interested parishioners. For more information, contact Carolyn Seaton, 202-885-3329 (o); 301-585-2063; cseaton1@starpower.net.

—NOELL SOTTILE

FEBRUARY 11 - “WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE DIOCESE?”

At the Sunday Forum on February 11th, three of our diocesan delegates, Rich Turner, Bill Hall, and Barbara Manard, reported on the 112th Diocesan Convention, held January 26th and 27th, noting important items from the Bishop’s Address, including: An expanding Latino ministry and the development of diocesan-wide anti-racism training for diocesan committee members. That the Diocese of Washington has established one of the fastest growing youth and young adult ministries nationally. And the development of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, to be located in Southeast DC. (Among those involved in the development of this new school, includes St. Albanite Dick Beatty.)

Resolutions on the equal participation of women and men in clergy and lay leadership; the study of slavery’s impact, the support of immigrants in our midst; Millennium Development Goals; and, the meeting of the primates in the Anglican Communion, were all passed. A recommendation to reduce the diocese’s dependence on its Soper Trust fund followed the budget report.

Rich, Bill, and Barbara were particularly moved by the comments of the Rev. Stuart Kenworthy, Rector of Christ Church Georgetown, upon his receiving of The Bishop’s Award. Rev. Kenworthy received this honor in recognition of his service as a military chaplain in Baghdad last year.

Our delegates were also edified by a presentation by Diana Butler Bass, in which the scholar of American religion discussed liberal and conservative congregations in addition to established—or old-style—and newer intentional sorts of worship.

For more information on the Diocesan Convention, visit www.edow.org

— CHRISTINE OBLITAS

Fellowship Sunday Hosts are needed

On the last Sunday of every month, we set aside the time between the 9:15 and the 11:15 services for Parish fellowship to celebrate our greatest treasure—each other. This ministry provides a way to meet others, and to find out about the many ways you can become an active part of the Parish. The fellowship is hosted each month by a different Parish group, so can share their work and ministry with the Parish. Contact: Linda Vitella, lvitella@global-cable.com, 202-362-6324 (h); Jane Volkema 202-363-8286, JaneV@st-albans-parish.org

Note: There will not be a Fellowship Sunday in March. Instead we will gather for fellowship the following two Sundays on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

Newcomers’ Dinner

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

5 - 7:30 PM

TRENBATH ASSEMBLY

This ministry provides a casual setting for newcomers to be introduced to others. Invitations are mailed to newcomers who have filled out a Welcome card (found in the pew racks) and who have been attending St. Alban’s for six months or less.

Since the newcomers are our guests, everyone at St. Alban’s is invited to attend and to bring something to share for the meal: entree, side dish, salad or dessert. Beverages are provided. Contact the Parish Receptionist, 202-363-8286, to RSVP to attend.

If you would like to help host this event, contact: Neil and Emma Wilson 301-699-8577 (h), ECW1960@aol.com, or Lacey Gude 202-833-3614.

Vacation Bible School — Summer 2007

KRISTIE HASSETT

We hope to be able to offer a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program this summer, but we need leaders and other volunteers for the program. The first step in this process is to find two co-chairs, for a total of three leaders. Once we have our leadership in place, we will also need parishioners to take on various other roles - some jobs might be concluded before VBS week (preparing costumes might be one example), while others would require your participation during the week of VBS.

Whether or not you have young children, think of this as a mission opportunity where you can serve the youngest members of your own parish and help to nurture their growth as Christians. There are lots of summer camps for sports, art and music. It is up to the people of St. Alban's to offer a Christian "summer camp" experience for our own children.

Some of you may recall our VBS program from two years ago, which was based on a Harry Potter theme. It was a successful program. Everyone who participated had a wonderful time and beyond the obvious fun, it was a great opportunity for kids and adults to deepen their friendships with fellow parishioners. We have not yet picked a VBS theme for this year, because this is something the co-chairs should decide together. A couple of things, though, have been decided. We will offer an evening program, from 5 to 8 p.m., starting with dinner together each evening, and VBS will be an intergenerational program, meaning that all ages are welcome and older kids will be able to participate as helpers. The program will be held Monday through Friday evenings for one week in July, either the 9th through the 13th or the 16th through the 20th. The exact dates will be decided by the co-chairs.

Please contact me at krhassett@starpower.net if you are willing to help — particularly if you could be one of the co-chairs. This is an all-volunteer program and it will not happen without your help.

Job Openings at the Cathedral

For the complete description of these job openings, go to <http://www.pecf.org/employment/>

HEAD VERGER — FULL-TIME

Verger prepares for and assists in routine daily and special services, including preparation of vestments and supplies; acts as liturgical "stage manager," assists with movement of service participants during the liturgy. Maintains the register of attendance and communicants. Send cover letter and résumé to: Washington National Cathedral, Human Resources CQ-1, Mass. & Wisc. Aves. NW, WDC 20016. Email: jobs@cathedral.org; fax: 202-537-5661.

HERB COTTAGE MANAGER — PART-TIME

Oversee all sales, operations and personnel activities, and to develop educational opportunities for staff and customers. The schedule will be flexible, approx. 30 hours per week. Experience working in a museum shop or specialty gift shop, including training, motivating and supervising paid staff and volunteers. Send a letter of interest and résumé to the Human Resources: Washington National Cathedral, Mass. & Wisc. Aves. NW, WDC 20016. E-mail: jobs@cathedral.org; fax 202-537-5661.

St Alban's Super Sixties News

After more than 12 years as a dedicated volunteer Alden Lattu left the program following the birth of her baby. Ryland Russell took that position and has proved to be quite an asset. Recently, Sandra O'Neill, a member of St. Alban's, has stepped in to improve our membership.

Since the discontinuation of bus service for seniors who do not drive, it has been difficult to maintain the 25-person per-day average the D.C. Office on Aging requires to continue supporting us. We would love to have you and your friends in join Super Sixties. We have Tai Chi and we might add Yoga when Nourse Hall is available in the spring. For more information, contact Samiha Mishalani, Super Sixties Coordinator 202-363-8286 ext. 212.

Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: JaneV@st-albans-parish.org

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